

289 25X1

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COUNTRY West Germany

TOPIC Information on Territorial Defense TV 12 (Nord)

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

29 December 1953

DATE OBTAINED

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

25X1

1. [redacted] the following officers 25X1

were assigned to TV 12 (Nord) in Pasewalk:  
 Major General Hermann Rentzsch, commanding general of the TV;  
 Lieutenant Colonel Reimann, deputy;  
 Lieutenant Colonel Cetmann, deputy;  
 Colonel von Witzleben, chief of staff;  
 Colonel Neitsch, political officer;  
 Colonel Geiger, chief medical officer;  
 Colonel Rickwin, in charge of engineer matters;  
 Major Brandstaetter, state security officer;  
 Major Skabania, motor transport officer.<sup>1</sup>

2. The headquarters of the TV included the following departments:

1st Department: operations;  
 4th Department: organization;  
 5th Department: personnel, officers;  
 6th Department: coding;  
 7th Department: classified material;  
 8th Department: finances;  
 10th Department: topography.

Other departments available included the Supply Department, the Motor Transport Department, the Medical Department and Legal Department.

3. Officers assigned to Staff "B" of the TV included:

Lieutenant Colonel Petter, chief;  
 Major Becker (fmu), deputy chief;  
 Captain Rother (fmu), deputy chief in charge of S-5 matters.<sup>1</sup>

4. TV 12 included the following independent units:

S-5 Kommando, Pasewalk, with 3 heavy AAA batteries each equipped with 4 x 85-mm Soviet AA guns; and 3 light AAA batteries each equipped with 4 x 37-mm Soviet AA guns. CO of this unit was Captain Schellenberger (fmu).<sup>2</sup>

S-4 Kommando, Stallberg, with 6 batteries.<sup>3</sup>

B-Kommando, Viereck, with Major Gaertner (fmu) as its CO.<sup>4</sup>

D-1 Abteilung, Pasewalk.

D-2 Abteilung, stationed at an undetermined place.<sup>5</sup>

Headquarters battery, Pasewalk.

The Jaegerbrueck firing range was under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Pietzsch (fmu)

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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- 2 -

25X1

5. The following units were assigned to TV 12:  25X1  
Division Prenzlau, under the command of Colonel Riedel, with A-Kommandos in Prenzlau, Drosegeheide and Pinnow; and S-1, S-5 D-1 and D-2 Abteilungen.  
Division Prora, with the 1st A-Kommando at Prora, the 2d A-Kommando at Rostock and the 3d A-Kommando in Schwerin; the stations of the other units were unknown.  
Mechanized Division Eggesin, under the command of Colonel Siegfried Weiss, with a heavy C-Regiment, a medium C-Regiment and a C Instruction Regiment in Spechtberg; a S-5 Kommando at Altwarpe; and a B-Kommando and 3 A-Kommandos in Eggesin.<sup>8</sup> The S-5 Kommando at Altwarpe was under the command of Major Boerner (fmu) and consisted of 3 heavy AAA batteries with 4 x 85-mm Soviet AA guns each, and 3 light AAA batteries with 4 x 37-mm Soviet AA guns each.<sup>2</sup> The B-Kommando at Eggesin consisted of 3 heavy batteries with 6 x 152-mm Soviet guns to each battery, and 3 medium batteries, each equipped with 6 x 122-mm Soviet guns.<sup>9</sup>

1.  Comment. Major General Rentzsch, Colonel von Witzleben, Colonel Neitsch and Lieutenant Colonel Petter were confirmed in their previously known assignments. Detailed information on von Witzleben was reported previously.  According to another report of November 1953, Lieutenant Colonel Riedel, von Witzleben's predecessor, was promoted to the rank of colonel and made chief of staff of Mechanized Bereitschaft Potsdam. 25X1

2.  Comment. According to another report of August 1953, the two Kommandos, after transferring three AAA batteries each to TV 24 and Mechanized Bereitschaft Potsdam about late June, consisted of 6 batteries each. If it is assumed that the present report is correct, the two Kommandos involved must have undergone a complete re-organization in the course of which the two AAA Kommandos which previously were homogeneous in their equipment were remodeled after the pattern of a Soviet mechanized division. 25X1

3.  Comment. This unit has been previously reported.

4.  Comment. Major Gaertner's unit is stationed in Stallberg.  25X1

5.  Comment. This unit is still stationed at Fuenfeichen.

6.  Comment. The Infantry Bereitschaft Prenzlau also includes 1 mixed artillery Kommando, 1 tank SP gun Kommando, 1 AF Abteilung at Drosegeheide and units of the rear services in Prenzlau.

7.  Comment. Division Prora was deactivated in September 1953. Its units were merged with Mechanized Bereitschaft Potsdam and TV 24 or transferred to TV 12 newly organized in Schwerin. The A-Kommandos of Bereitschaft Schwerin are stationed in Schwerin-Sternbuchholz, Rostock and Prora; its headquarters, reconnaissance and signal Abteilungen in Schwerin, while all the other component units of the Bereitschaft are believed to be still stationed in Prora. CO of the Bereitschaft is Colonel Bleck. 25X1

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- 3 -

25X1

8. [redacted] Comment. The A-Kommandos and B-Kommandos of Mechanized Bereitschaft Eggesin are not located in Eggesin but in Karpin (Installation VIII); the same applies to the mortar Kommando of the Bereitschaft. The reconnaissance Abteilung, signal Abteilung and the rear services of the Bereitschaft are still stationed in Eggesin. There is a possibility that the engineer battalion vacated Fuenfeichen.

25X1

9. [redacted] Comment. According to the last report on B-Kommando Eggesin dated summer 1953, this Kommando of Mechanized Bereitschaft Eggesin was exclusively equipped with 122-mm guns. Only the B-Kommando of TV 12 had 152-mm guns. Just as the Kommandos mentioned in Field Comment 2, the B-Kommando of Mechanized Bereitschaft Eggesin transferred 3 batteries in early July. According to the above-mentioned report the B-Kommando retained 3 battalions with 3 batteries each. Each of the batteries was equipped with 4 guns.

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